

Claims

1. An eye shield (1) for protecting an eye (2) of a subject, characterised in that the eye shield (1) comprises a patch (3) having a rear major surface (7) for in use abutting at least an upper eyelid of an eye of the subject, and a front major surface (6), an adhesive means (11,12) on the rear major surface (7) for securing the patch (3) to the upper eyelid and to a lower eyelid or a portion of the face of the subject below the eye for retaining the eyelids closed, and a viewing means (24) for facilitating viewing of the open/closed status of the eyelids.
2. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 1 characterised in that the apportion of the rear major surface of the patch (3) defines an intermediate area (18) for in use coinciding with eyelashes of the subject, the intermediate area (18) being such as to facilitate removal of the eye shield without plucking of the eyelashes, and with minimum discomfort to the subject.
3. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 2 characterised in that the intermediate area (18) is provided by a non-adhesive surface (18) for preventing adhesion of the patch (3) to eyelashes of the respective upper and lower eyelids.
4. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 2 or 3 characterised in that the adhesive means (11) is provided on an upper portion of the rear major surface (7) which defines an upper adhesive portion (14) for securing the patch (3) to the upper eyelid intermediate the eyebrow and eyelash, and the adhesive means (12) is provided on a lower portion of the rear major surface (7) which defines a lower adhesive portion (15) for securing the patch (3) to the lower eyelid or to the face of the subject below the eye, the intermediate area (18) being located between the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15).
5. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 4 characterised in that the adhesive means (12) is located on the lower adhesive portion (15,16) of the rear major surface (7) for securing the patch (3) below the eyelash of the lower eyelid.
6. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 4 or 5 characterised in that the intermediate area (18) extends from one side edge (19) to another opposite side

edge (20) of the patch (3) between the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15) thereof.

7. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 4 to 6 characterised in that the
5 lower adhesive portion (15) of the patch (3) comprises an adhesive tab (16)
extending downwardly therefrom for securing to the face of the subject below the
eye.

8. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 7 characterised in that the adhesive tab
10 (16) extends obliquely downwardly from the patch.

9. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 7 or 8 characterised in that a pair of
adhesive tabs (16) diverging outwardly from each other extend downwardly from the
patch.
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10. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 4 to 9 characterised in that the
upper adhesive portion (14) defines an area which is substantially similar to the
shape of an upper eyelid when closed.

20 11. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that a non-
adhesive tab (32) extends from the patch (3), and preferably, upwardly from the
patch (3) for facilitating removal of the patch (3) from the eye, preferably, in a
direction from the upper eyelid downwardly towards the lower eyelid for minimising
discomfort to the subject during removal thereof.

25 12. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the
viewing means (24) is located between the upper and lower adhesive portions
(14,15).

30 13. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the
viewing means (24) comprises a window (24) of a substantially transparent material.

14. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 13 characterised in that the window (24)
defines a part of the rear major surface (7) of the patch, the rear surface of the

window defining at least a part of the intermediate area (18) of the rear major surface (7).

15. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 13 or 14 characterised in that the window
5 (24) is framed by the patch material (3,25).

16. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the
viewing means (24) defines an area which is substantially similar to the shape of a
lower eyelid.

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17. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the
patch (3) is of an opaque material.

18. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the
15 patch (3) defines an outer periphery (4) which is of substantially similar shape to the
oval outline shape of an eye cavity.

19. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 18 characterised in that the oval shaped
patch (3) defines a major axis (5), which in use extends substantially parallel to a line
20 defined by the abutting edges of the upper and lower eyelids of the eye when closed.

20. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 18 or 19 characterised in that the patch (3)
defines an upper straight edge (21) for preventing contact of the patch with the
eyebrow of the eye.

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21. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 20 characterised in that the upper straight
edge (21) of the patch (3) extends parallel to the major axis (5) of the patch (3).

22. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 19 to 21 characterised in that the
30 viewing means (24) defines an upper straight edge (30) which extends parallel to the
major axis (5) of the patch (3).

23. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 22 characterised in that the upper straight
edge (30) of the viewing means (24) lies above the major axis (5) of the patch (3).

24. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 23 characterised in that the viewing means (24) is of semi-oval shape, extending downwardly from the upper edge (30) thereof.
- 5 25. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 18 to 24 characterised in that the patch is of substantially similar size to the size of the eye cavity.
26. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that a protective release sheet (34,35) is provided for covering and protecting the adhesive means (11,12).
- 10 27. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 26 characterised in that the protective release sheet (34,35) is provided in two parts which meet adjacent the major axis (5) of the patch (3), and adjacent edges of the release sheets extend parallel to the major axis of the patch.
- 15 28. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 27 characterised in that the respective release sheets (34,35) overlap adjacent the major axis (5) of the patch (3).
- 20 29. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the adhesive means (11,12) is a self adhesive provided on the respective upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15).
- 25 30. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the adhesive means (11,12) is a non-irritant adhesive.
31. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the adhesive means (11,12) is a medical grade adhesive.
- 30 32. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the patch (3) is of a flexible material.
33. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the patch (3) is of a relatively thin film material.

34. An eye shield as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the patch and the window are of a material substantially impermeable to chemicals and other solutions used in a surgical procedure or in the preparation of a subject for a surgical procedure.

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35. A pair of eye shields as claimed in any preceding claim.

36. An eye shield for protecting an eye of a subject, characterised in that the eye shield (1) comprises a patch (3) defining an outer periphery (4) which is of substantially similar shape to the oval outline of the shape of an eye cavity, and having a rear major surface (7) for in use abutting at least an upper lid of an eye of the subject, and a front major surface (6), an adhesive means (11,12) on the rear major surface (7) for securing the patch (3) to the upper eyelid and to a lower eyelid or the portion of the face of the subject below the eye for retaining the eyelids closed.

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37. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 36 characterised in that the apportion of the rear major surface of the patch (3) defines an intermediate area (18) for in use coinciding with eyelashes of the subject, the intermediate area (18) being such as to facilitate removal of the eye shield without plucking of the eyelashes, and with minimum discomfort to the subject.

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38. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 37 characterised in that the intermediate area (18) is provided by a non-adhesive surface (18) for preventing adhesion of the patch to the eye lashes of the respective upper and lower eyelids.

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39. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 37 or 38 characterised in that the adhesive means (11) is provided on an upper portion of the rear major surface which defines an upper adhesive portion (14) for securing the patch to the upper eyelid intermediate the eyebrow and eyelash, and the adhesive means (12) is provided on a lower portion of the rear major surface which defines a lower adhesive portion (15) for securing the patch to the lower eyelid or to the face of the subject below the eye, the intermediate area (18) being located between the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15).

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40. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 39 characterised in that the adhesive means (12) is located on the lower adhesive portion (15,25) of the rear major surface (7) for securing the patch (3) below the eyelash of the lower eyelid.

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41. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 39 or 40 characterised in that the intermediate area (18) extends from one side edge (19) to another opposite side edge (20) of the patch between the upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15) thereof.

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42. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 39 to 41 characterised in that the lower adhesive portion (15) of the patch comprises an adhesive tab (16) extending downwardly therefrom for securing to the face of the subject below the eye.

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43. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 42 characterised in that the adhesive tab (16) extends obliquely downwardly from the patch.

44. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 42 or 43 characterised in that a pair of adhesive tabs (16) diverging outwardly from each other extend downwardly from the patch.

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45. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 44 characterised in that the upper adhesive portion (14) defines an area which is substantially similar to the shape of an upper eyelid when closed.

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46. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 45 characterised in that a non-adhesive tab (32) extends from the patch (3), and preferably upwardly from the patch (3) for facilitating removal of the patch from the eye, preferably, in a direction from the upper eyelid downwardly towards the lower eyelid for minimising discomfort to the subject during removal thereof.

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47. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 46 characterised in that the patch (3) defines a major axis (5), which in use extends substantially parallel to a line defined by the abutting edges of the upper and lower eyelids of the eye when closed.

48. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 47 characterised in that the patch (3) defines an upper straight edge (21) for preventing contact of the patch (3) with the eyebrow of the eye.

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49. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 48 characterised in that a protective release sheet (34,35) is provided for covering and protecting the adhesive means (11,12).

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50. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 49 characterised in that the protective release sheet (34,35) is provided in two parts which meet adjacent the major axis (5) of the patch (3), and adjacent edges of the release sheets extend parallel to the major axis of the patch.

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51. An eye shield as claimed in Claim 50 characterised in that the respective release sheets (34,35) overlap adjacent the major axis (5) of the patch.

52. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 51 characterised in that the patch is of substantially similar size to the size of the eye cavity.

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53. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 52 characterised in that the adhesive means (11,12) is a self adhesive provided on the respective upper and lower adhesive portions (14,15).

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54. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 53 characterised in that the adhesive means (11,12) is a non-irritant adhesive.

55. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 54 characterised in that the adhesive means (11,12) is a medical grade adhesive.

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56. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 55 characterised in that the patch (3) is of a flexible material.

57. An ey shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 56 characterised in that the

patch (3) is of a relatively thin film material.

58. An eye shield as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 57 characterised in that the patch and the window are of a material substantially impermeable to chemicals and other solutions used in a surgical procedure or in the preparation of a subject for a surgical procedure.

59. A pair of eye shields as claimed in any of Claims 36 to 58.

60. A method for protecting an eye of a subject during a surgical procedure comprising the steps of securing a patch (3) to an upper lid of the eye of the subject, urging the upper lid downwardly for closing the eye and securing the patch (3) to the lower lid of the eye, or to a portion of the face of the subject below the eye for retaining the upper and lower lids of the eye closed.

61. A method as claimed in Claim 60 characterised in that the method further comprises the step of inspecting the eyelids through a viewing means (24) in the patch (3) for determining the open/closed status of the eyelids.

62. A method as claimed in Claim 60 or 61 characterised in that the method further comprises preventing securing of the patch (3) to eyelashes of the respective upper and lower eyelids when securing the patch to the upper eyelid and to the lower eyelid or the portion of the face below the eye.

63. A method as claimed in any of Claims 60 to 62 characterised in that the method comprises securing the patch to the upper eyelid intermediate the eyelash of the upper eyelid and the eyebrow of the eye of the subject.

64. A method as claimed in any of Claims 60 to 63 characterised in that the method further comprises the step of removing the patch (3) from the eye by peeling the patch (3) from the upper eyelid in a direction from the upper eyelid downwardly towards the lower eyelid.

65. A method as claimed in any of Claims 60 to 64 characterised in that the method comprises the step of securing a pair of patches (3) to the respective eyes of the subject.
- 5 66. A method as claimed in any of Claims 60 to 65 characterised in that the patch (3) is provided by an eye shield (1) as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 59.